

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A hub~~Hub~~ for a~~the~~ rotor (22) of a wind energy turbine (10) comprising:

a hollow body (28) rotatable around a rotation axis and provided with at least one flange (34) for mounting to the hollow body (28) a bearing for a rotor blade (26); and

~~and at~~ at least two stiffening webs (38) integrally formed with the hollow body (28) and radially extending within a flange area (36) of the hollow body (28) surrounded by the flange (34) to the center (40) of the flange area (36),

wherein at least two openings are provided within the flange area (36) of the hollow body (28).

2. (Currently Amended) The hub~~Hub~~ according to claim 1, wherein the stiffening webs (38) are homogeneously distributed within the flange area (36) and are displaced relative to each other by an angle substantially equal to 360° divided by the number of the stiffening webs (38).

3. (Currently Amended) The hub~~Hub~~ according to claim [[1 or 2]] 2, wherein at least one of the stiffening webs (38) extends substantially parallel to the rotation axis of the hollow body (28).

4. (Currently Amended) The hub~~Hub~~ according to any one of claims [[1 to 3]] 3,

wherein the width or the thickness or both of the stiffening webs (38) decreases towards the center (40) of the flange area (36).

5. (Currently Amended) The hub~~Hub~~ according to any one of claims [[1 to 4]] 4, wherein the stiffening webs (38) are solid or hollow.

6. (Currently Amended) The hub~~Hub~~ according to any one of claims [[1 to 5]] 5, wherein at least one of the stiffening webs (38) is provided with an aperture (42) for a rotor shaft (20) of a driving means for rotating a rotor blade (26) when mounted via the bearing to the flange (34).

7. (Currently Amended) The hub~~Hub~~ according to claim 6, wherein the width or thickness or both of the at least one stiffening web (38) is increased within the area of the aperture (42).

8. (Currently Amended) The hub~~Hub~~ according to any one of claims [[1 to 7]] 7, wherein the stiffening webs (38) are arranged within a plane tilted with respect to the rotation axis of the hollow body (28).

9. (Currently Amended) The hub~~Hub~~ according to any one of claims [[1 to 8]] 8, wherein the stiffening webs (38) are arranged in at least two sets of at least two stiffening webs (38) and wherein the two sets of stiffening webs (38) are displaced along a rotor blade (26) pitch axis (46) perpendicular to a plane defined by the flange (34).

10. (Currently Amended) The hub~~Hub~~ according to claim 9, wherein the stiffening webs ~~(38)~~ from set to set are displaced to each other around the rotor blade ~~(26)~~ pitch axis ~~(46)~~.

11. (Currently Amended) The hub~~Hub~~ according to any one of claims ~~[[1 to 10]]~~ 10, wherein the number of stiffening webs ~~(38)~~ is three or four.

12. (Currently Amended) The hub~~Hub~~ according to any one of claims ~~[[1 to 11]]~~ 11, wherein the hollow body ~~(28)~~ comprises at least two and preferably three flanges ~~(34)~~ each defining a flange area ~~(36)~~ and wherein each flange area ~~(36)~~ is provided with at least two stiffening webs ~~(38)~~ with the shape, number, and/or arrangement of the stiffening webs ~~(38)~~ within each flange area ~~(36)~~ being identical or different.

13. (Currently Amended) The hub~~Hub~~ according to any one of claims ~~[[1 to 12]]~~ 12, wherein the hollow body ~~(28)~~ comprises a first end ~~(30)~~ for mounting to a rotor shaft (20) and a second end ~~(32)~~ opposite to the first end ~~(30)~~ and wherein the hollow body ~~(28)~~ within areas between adjacent flanges ~~(34)~~ and its first or second end ~~(32)~~ or both ends is provided with additional apertures ~~(44)~~.

14. (Currently Amended) The hub~~Hub~~ according to claim 13, wherein the hollow body ~~(28)~~ in case of comprising three flanges ~~(34)~~ is provided with three additional apertures ~~(44)~~ adjacent its first and second ends ~~(30,32)~~.

15. (Currently Amended) The hub~~Hub~~ according to any one of claims ~~[[1 to 14]]~~ 14, wherein the hollow body ~~(28)~~ comprises a first end ~~(30)~~ for mounting to a rotor shaft ~~(20)~~ and a

second end (32) opposite to the first end (30) and wherein the hollow body (28) at its first or and/or second end (30,32) comprises a hole (42).

16. (Currently Amended) The hub~~Hub~~ according to claim 15, wherein the hollow body (28) at its second end (32) comprises a deepened area (50) with a man hole (48) located therein.

17. (New) The hub according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the stiffening webs extends substantially parallel to the rotation axis of the hollow body.

18. (New) The hub according to claim 1, wherein the width or the thickness or both of the stiffening webs decreases towards the center of the flange area.

19. (New) The hub according to claim 1, wherein the stiffening webs are solid or hollow.

20. (New) The hub according to claim 1, wherein the hollow body comprises a first end for mounting to a rotor shaft and a second end opposite to the first end and wherein the hollow body at its first or second end comprises a hole.